

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SAO PA 00188 232011Z  
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 EPA-04 CG-00 DOTE-00 AID-05  
CEQ-01 CIAE-00 SOE-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08  
INR-07 IO-14 L-03 NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-05  
USIA-15 SS-15 SP-02 DOE-11 INT-05 FMC-02 DLOS-09  
/137 W

-----110437 232018Z /46

P R 231800Z JAN 78  
FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8238  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

UNCLAS SAO PAULO 0188

DEPT. PASS: EPA/OIA FOR OIL AND HAZARDS DIV AND EPA/EDISON;  
DOT FOR NCR AND US COAST GUARD AREA CMDRS.

E.O.11652: N/A  
TAGS: SENV, BR  
SUBJECT: MAJOR OIL SPILL - BRAZIL'S SANTA BARBARA

REF: SWO PAULO 0144

1. SUMMARY - THE MAJOR OIL SPILL AT POST OF SAO SEBASTIAO IS BEING COMPARED TO THE SANTA BARBARA SPILL BECAUSE OF THE RELATIVE SERIOUSNESS OF THE DAMAGE CAUSED, AND THE IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT POLLUTION CONTROL. TOTAL EXTENT OF DAMAGE IS STILL NOT KNOWN BUT OIL HAS ACCUMULATED ON MANY BEACHES FROM UBATUBA, STATE OF SAO PAULO TO GUARATIBA, STATE OF RIO DE JANEIRO. THERE ARE ADDITIONAL LARGE SLICKS AT SEA WHICH WILL REACH BEACHES IN FUTURE. NO ACUTE DAMAGE TO MARINE LIFE OR WILDLIFE HAVE BEEN REPORTED, ALTHOUGH SOME FISHING AREAS ARE REPORTING THAT CATCHES OF FIN FISH AND SHELL FISH HAVE AN OILY TASTE. COAST GUARD/EPA TEAM ALSO REPORTS THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHILE HAMPERED BY LACK OF EQUIPMENT AND ORGANIZATION, ARE MAKING UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SAO PA 00188 232011Z

GREAT EFFORTS AND RELATIVELY GOOD PROGRESS IN CONTROLLING AND REPAIRING DAMAGE FROM SPILL. COAST GUARD/EPA TEAM ALSO REPORT SAO PAULO STATE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO EXPAND OIL POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM AND TEAM WILL BE COOPERATING WITH SAO PAULO GOVERNMENT IN ORGANIZING SUCH PROGRAM. END SUMMARY.

2. COAST GUARD/EPA TEAM MEMBERS MONSON, DEWLING, KLEVENO AND BIBLANE

BRIEFED CONGEN JAN. 20 ON OIL SPILL. EXACT CAUSE OF ACCIDENT AND AMOUNT OF OIL SPILL IS NOT KNOWN AND IS STILL UNDER INVESTIGATION BY BRAZILIAN NAVY. FIRST REPORTS INDICATED THAT TANKER "BRAZILIAN MARINA" HIT A ROCK ON JANUARY 9. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT UP TO TEN TONS OF KUWAIT CRUDE WAS SPILLED. DANGER REMAINS OF FURTHER SPILLS FROM TANKER BECAUSE REPAIRS HAVE NOT BEEN MADE AND BOTTOM STORAGE TANKS ARE FILLED WITH WATER, TOPPED BY OIL. FURTHER SPILLS FROM TANKER MAY OCCUR WHEN SALVAGE OPERATIONS BEGIN.

3. SHORTLY AFTER ACCIDENT OCCURED, A RECENTLY ORGANIZED COMMITTEE OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENT ENTITIES, INCLUDING THE S. P. STATE GOVERNMENT, NAVAL AUTHORITIES, AND PETROBRAS, WENT INTO ACTION AND EARLY MORNING OF JANUARY 10 OPERATIONS WERE TAKEN OVER BY CETESB OFFICIAL, CARLOS CELSO DO AMARAL, WHO IS STILL ACTING AS ON-THE-SCENE COORDINATOR. GOVERNMENT'S FIRST EFFORTS WERE SEVERELY HAMPERED BY LACK OF EQUIPMENT KNOW-HOW AND ORGANIZATION WHICH PROMPTED REQUEST TO USG FOR ASSISTANCE.

4. COAST GUARD/EPA TEAM HAS BEEN ON SCENE SINCE SUNDAY, JWNARY 15. THEIR ASSESSMENT AS SO FAR IS THAT EXTENSIVE DEPOSITS HAVE ACCUMULTED ON BEACHES IN AREA FROM UBATUBA IN THE STATE OF SAO PAULO TO GUARATIBA IN RIO DE JANEIRO METROPOLIAN AREA. GREATEST ACCUMULATION OF OIL HAS OCCURED ON BEACHES AROUND UBATUBA AND IN AREA AROUND PICINGUABA ON SAO PAULO/RIO DE JANEIRO STATE LINE. MOST DAMAGE IS ON RECREATIONAL AREA.  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SAO PA 00188 232011Z

L  
BEACHES, ALTHOUGH SOME FISHING VILLAGES NEAR PICINGUABA ARE ALSO AFFECTED. TEAM HAS NOT OBSERVED ACUTE DAMAGE TO ECOLOGY SUCH AS DEAD FISH OR OIL SOAKED BIRDS. HOWEVER, THEY HAVE RECEIVED SOME REPORTS OF OILY TASTE OF RECENT CATCHES OF FIN FISH AND SHELL FISH IN AREA.

5. LACK OF EQUIPMENT AND KNOW-HOW GREATLY HAMPERED GOVERNMENT'S INITIAL EFFORTS. TEAM REPORTED THAT DISPERSANTS WERE USED ON BEACHES, RATHER THAN AT SEA, THUS DRIVING OIL TWELVE INCHES UNDERNEATH SAND. OIL ON THESE BEACHES CANNOT BE REMOVED EXCEPT BY EXTENSIVE EXCAVATION. TEAM SAID THAT THEIR PRIORITIES ARE NOW (1) PREVENTING FURTHER SPILLS FROM THE TANKER; (2) CLEANING UP THE BEACHES AND, (3) CONTAINING AND CLEANING UP OIL AT HIGH SEAS. WORK ON CLEANING THE RECREATIONAL BEACHES IS NOW UNDER WAY, BUT LARGE SLICKS OBSERVED OFFSHORE HAVE EMULSIFIED INTO MOUSSE AND CANNOT BE CONTROLLED. MUCH OF THIS OIL MAY EVENTUALLY COLLECT ON BEACHES.

6. TEAM ALSO REPORTS THAT WHILE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO CONTROL SPILL HAVE BEEN HAMPERED BY LACK OF EQUIPMENT AND TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW, OCAL OFFICIALS HAVE DONE VERY WELL CONSIDERING THE

CIRCUMSTANCES. LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS NOW WELL AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING PREPARED TO RESPOND TO FUTURE SPILLS. GOVERNOR OF SAO PAULO HAS INDICATED TO CETESB (SAO PAULO STATE ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL AGENCY) THAT HE WILL APPROVE AN EMERGENCY BUDGET TO EXPAND POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM. EXACT AMOUNT OF BUDGET IS NOT YET KNOWN; PRESENT SPILL HAS COST SAO PAULO STATE GOVERNMENT SOME TEN MILLION CRUZEIROS SO FAR. PROPOSED EMERGENCY BUDGET WILL BE USED TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT AND TRAIN PERSONNEL. TEAM WILL ALSO PROPOSE THAT KEY BRAZILIAN PERSONNEL BE BROUGHT TO THE U. S. FOR TRAINING AT EPA AND COAST GUARD FACILITIES.

7. POST IS CONTINUING IN CONTACT WITH TEAM, PROVIDING ASSISTANCE WHEN NECESSARY AND WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP DEPARTMENT INFORMED.

CHAPIN

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 SAO PA 00188 232011Z

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** OILS, OIL SPILLS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978SAOPA00188  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780034-0363  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** SAO PAULO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780133/aaaabbwu.tel  
**Line Count:** 136  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 31fb24e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION OES  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24 feb 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3730403  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MAJOR OIL SPILL - BRAZIL'S SANTA BARBARA  
**TAGS:** SENV, BR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkvgwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/31fb24e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014